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Docket 292

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

PP No. 93-253

2 NOV 1993

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
IN REPLY REFER TO:

CN9304036

Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-4603

93-253

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Dear Senator Robb:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This responds to your letter of September 29, 1993, addressing the 2 GHz Personal Communications Services (PCS) proceeding, GEN Docket No. 90-314. Your constituent, J. Allen Layman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Roanoke and Botetourt Telephone Co., expresses support for a PCS licensing structure that provides national licensees a 40 MHz bandwidth allocation.

On September 23, 1993, the Commission adopted final rules to govern PCS. The Commission allocated a total of 120 megahertz of spectrum for licensed PCS and adopted licensing areas based upon Basic Trading Areas (BTAs) and Major Trading Areas (MTAs); 60 megahertz of spectrum were allocated for BTAs and 60 megahertz for MTAs. The allocation for MTAs is composed of two 30 megahertz frequency blocks, while the allocation for BTAs is composed of one 20 megahertz frequency block and four 10 megahertz frequency blocks. PCS licensees will be permitted to aggregate up to 40 megahertz of spectrum, except cellular licensees may acquire only 10 megahertz within their service area. Local exchange carriers are permitted to apply for PCS licenses on the same basis as other applicants.

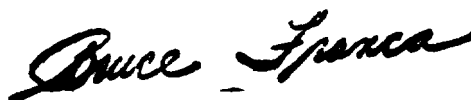
In a companion Notice of Proposed Rule Making implementing competitive bidding authority, PP Docket No. 93-253, the Commission proposed to permit single bids for both of the MTA licenses for 30 megahertz frequency blocks. Under the proposal, the Commission would accept bids both for individual MTA licenses and for the individual licenses combined in a single group. Licenses would be awarded as a group if that bid exceeded the sum of the highest bids for the individual licenses. Adoption of this proposal may facilitate but would not mandate a nationwide PCS system. The Commission also proposed licensing preferences in one 20 megahertz and one 10 megahertz frequency block for rural telephone companies, small businesses, and businesses owned by minorities and women.

Honorable Charles S. Robb

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The Commission's decisions addressing PCS are designed to foster competition among PCS providers and between PCS providers and cellular radio operators and to ensure expeditious provision of PCS in both urban and rural areas. I am attaching the press releases for the dockets addressed above that more fully describe the Commission's actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce Franca".

for Thomas P. Stanley
Chief Engineer

Enclosures

CHARLES S. ROBB
VIRGINIA

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Chairman, East Asian and
Pacific Affairs Subcommittee
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
Vice Chairman,
Democratic Policy Committee

September 29, 1993

The Honorable James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner Quello:

My office has been contacted by Mr. J. Allen Layman, of Danville, expressing concern about frequency bandwidth and the market structure for new Personal Communications Services. I am enclosing copies of the correspondence I have received.

I would appreciate it very much if you could review this information as you prepare your regulations in this area. Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely



Charles S. Robb

CSR/tmh

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ROANOKE & BOTETOURT Telephone Co.

J. Allen Layman
President &
Chief Executive Officer

September 14, 1993

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The Honorable Charles S. Robb
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4603

Dear Senator Robb:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will shortly render its decision governing the frequency bandwidth and market structure for new PCS/PCN networks. The FCC is considering whether to designate a block of frequencies as a national license and, if so, whether that frequency block will be 40 MHz or 20 MHz in bandwidth. The outcome of this decision is critical to the future development and success of PCS/PCN.

Roanoke and Botetourt Telephone Company supports the concept of a national license and a 40 MHz bandwidth allocation because it provides for the rapid and evenhanded deployment of PCS/PCN among urban and rural areas. A national license also provides for nationwide coverage and compatibility, as well as economics of scale which will permit PCS/PCN features and functions to be offered on a mass-market basis.

Unless the FCC adopts a national licensing scheme and ensures that national licensees are given sufficient bandwidth on which to operate, none of this will be possible. Existing users currently occupy the spectrum allocated to PCS/PCN. A 40 MHz bandwidth allocation to the national licensee would permit it to avoid the congestion and still provide service.

Roanoke and Botetourt Telephone Company has joined the MCI-inspired nation consortium to make a nation-wide PCS/PCN network a reality. Our consortium, which intends to pursue a national PCS/PCN license, will stress local ownership and management in each market and provides for inclusion of small businesses, minority and female owned businesses as well as rural interests.

We hope that as the FCC deliberates on these important issues you will, as a member of the telecommunications subcommittee, make your sentiments in favor of both national licensing and a 40 MHz bandwidth allocation known to the FCC Commissioners.

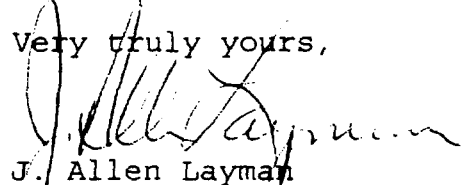
"SERVICE IS OUR BUSINESS"

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As a member of the telecommunications subcommittee, we ask you to immediately convey to the FCC Commissioners your support of both national licensing and a 40 MHz bandwidth allocation. Would also ask that you contact your colleagues on the full committee and in particular, those on the telecommunications subcommittee, in the hope that they too may both be convinced of the merit of a nationwide 40 MHz license, and be willing to convey their support to the FCC.

I would be pleased to answer any further questions you may have regarding the status of the PCS/PCN proceeding or Roanoke and Botetourt's participation in the national consortium.

Very truly yours,



J. Allen Layman
President and Chief
Executive Officer

JAL:mj